

What is claimed is as follows:

1. A method of forming a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a first powdered metal;
5 providing a second powdered metal, the first powdered metal and second powdered metal having a different composition or different physical properties or both;
treating the first and second powdered metals to form a stent-preform;
forming a stent from the stent preform.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the stent preform is a sheet.
- 10 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the sheet is rolled into tubular form during the forming step.
4. The method of claim 3, the sheet having opposing edges, wherein an edge is secured to an opposing edge during the forming step.
5. The method of claim 1 where the preform is laser cut during the forming step.
- 15 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the stent preform is a tube.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating step includes subjecting the first and second powdered metals to high pressure to form the preform.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating step includes subjecting the first and second powdered metals to high pressure to form a compact and sintering the compact
20 to form the preform.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating step includes sintering the first and second powdered metals to form the preform.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the treating step includes subjecting the first and second powdered metals
25 to high pressure to form a compact and sintering the compact to form a preform selected from the group consisting of sheets and tubes and either
rolling the preform in the case where the preform is a sheet to form the stent or
laser cutting the preform in the case where the preform is a tube to form the
stent.
- 30 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second metals are characterized by different average particle size.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second metals are elementally different metals.

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13. A method of forming a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a tube formed from a powdered metal;
cutting the tube to a desired shape using a laser.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the powdered metal has been sintered.
- 5 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the powdered metal has been subjected to high pressure to form a compact and the compact sintered.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the tube is formed from at least two powdered metals, a first powdered metal and a second powdered metal, the first and second powdered metals having a different composition or different physical properties or both.
- 10 17. The method of claim 13 wherein the tube is formed from at least two powdered metals, a first powdered metal and a second powdered metal, the first and second powdered metals having a different composition or different physical properties or both.
18. A method of forming a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a sheet formed from at least one powdered metal;
15 rolling the sheet to form a tubular stent.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the sheet has been sintered.
20. The method of claim 18 wherein the powdered metal has been subjected to high pressure to form a compact and the compact sintered.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the sheet is formed from at least two powdered
20 metals, a first powdered metal and a second powdered metal, the first and second powdered metals having a different composition or different physical properties or both.
which are characterized
22. The method of claim 18 wherein the sheet is formed from at least two powdered metals, a first powdered metal and a second powdered metal, the first and second
25 powdered metals having a different composition or different physical properties or both.

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